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PROCEEDINGS AND PAPERS.

QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING, held in the Society's Apartments, William-street, Kilkenny, on Wednesday, July 8th (by adjournment from the 1st), 1863.

The VERY REV. THE DEAN OF OSSORY, President of the Society, in the Chair.

The following new Members were elected :—

Professor John T. Hodges, M. D., Queen's College, Belfast ; and James Torrens, Esq., Belfast : proposed by Edward Benn, Esq.

A. Knight Young, Esq., M. D., Monaghan ; Rev. John R. Darley, The Rectory, Cootehill ; and R. M. Tagert, Esq., M. D., Carrickmacross : proposed by the Rev. G. H. Reade.

Robert De Ricci, Esq., M.R.C.S.I., 31, Upper Merrion-street, Dublin : proposed by Charles Tandy, Esq.

E. R. Rowland, Esq., Surveyor of Income Tax, Kilkenny : proposed by J. G. Robertson, Esq.

Rev. Richard Galvin, P. P., Rathdrum, county Wicklow ; and the Rev. John White, R. C. C., Roundwood, county Wicklow : proposed by the Rev. James Gafney.

Rev. James Corr, R. C. C., Callan, and Mr. Thomas Shelly, Callan : proposed by Mr. John Hogan.

Rev. Thomas Doyle, P. P., Ramsgrange, Arthurstown : proposed by Richard Long, Esq., M. D.

Rev. Patrick O'Neill, R. C. C. Marlborough-street, Dublin : proposed by Joseph Hanly, Esq.

John Laffan, Esq., Londonderry : proposed by A. G. Geoghegan, Esq.

William E. Martin, Esq., C. E., 10, Waterloo Avenue, North-strand, Dublin : proposed by Mr. W. Lawless.

Mr. Thomas Francis M'Evoy, Maynooth College : proposed by Mr. Prim.

The following presentations were received, and thanks voted to the donors:—

By the Society of Antiquaries of London: "Archæologia," Vol. XXXIX.

By the Geological Society of Dublin: their "Journal," Vol. X., Part 1.

By the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland: their "Journal," No. 76.

By the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland: their "Journal," Part 23.

By the Suffolk Institute of Archæology: their "Proceedings," Vol. III. No. 3.

By the Numismatic Society: "The Numismatic Chronicle," new series, No. 9.

By the Society for promoting Scientific Inquiries into Social Questions: "Report on the Patent Laws," by James A. Lawson, Esq., LL. D., Barrister-at-law.

By the Wiltshire Archæological and Natural History Society: their "Magazine," No. 22.

By the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society: their "Original Papers," Vol. VI., Part 3.

By the Rev. Burgh Byam: "The Cambrian Journal," for March and June, 1862, containing a Memoir of the Byam Family.

By the Publisher: "The Gentleman's Magazine," for May, June, and July, 1863.

By the Publisher: "The Builder," Nos. 1054–1071, inclusive.

By the Author: "Cashel of the Kings: being a History of the City of Cashel, compiled from scarce Books and Original Documents." By John Davis White, of Cashel, Solicitor, Sub-librarian of the Cashel Diocesan Library, &c. Clonmel, 1862: Part 1.

The Rev. James Graves said that this work was worthy of the notice of the Members. From the specimen now before them, and from his knowledge of the untiring research and accurate habits of investigation which characterized the author, he was sure it would comprise everything worthy of note which has been handed down relative to that ancient seat of Irish royalty and episcopacy. He (Mr. Graves) considered this history as one of the many good fruits which had sprung from the establishment of their Association. He believed he might say that Mr. Davis White was induced to turn his attention to the History and Antiquities of Cashel, by the fact of his having become a Member of the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archæological Society.

By the Right Hon. John Wynne: a curious stone box, of very small size, inclosing one of yew timber, with a bronze pin contained in the latter; and also the cranium of a skeleton, buried beside which, in a stone cist, the box was found, at Dromiskin, county of

Louth. These objects had been described and illustrated by the Rev. G. H. Reade in the October number of the Society's "Journal" (vol. iv., pp. 199 to 206), and had excited much interest in the archæological world.

The Rev. G. H. Reade sent the following account of another interment discovered in the same field:—

"This grave was discovered in the same manner as the former—by the plough—as the same height of earth, five feet, had been taken from off it also; thus verifying the opinion which I expressed last year that it was the cemetery of the old ecclesiastical buildings formerly existing here, and reference to which has been made in the 'Annals of the Four Masters.'

"The grave had been kept nearly undisturbed for my inspection; but the skull had been taken up, and part of one side broken; and some small bits of charcoal had been taken away, as my search for charcoal on the former occasion had made the people think there was some peculiar value attached to it. The skeleton lay entire, stretched on the back, with the head towards the west, in the opposite direction to that of No. 1 (the box owner); it was distant about three and a half yards from No. 1, and completely filled the flag coffin; it was at the same level exactly, lying on the yellow till. The kistvaen differed, however, in shape, being built in the form of a coffin, but otherwise was constructed in exactly the same way; viz., where the side flags were not high enough, the required height was built up with small stones, placed horizontally, as in building a wall. The flags were smaller than those of No. 1, as indeed was the whole flag coffin, the largest side flag being only $18\frac{1}{2}$ inches long; it was of the clay state or Lower Silurian formation of the district. The depth of the coffin was only 10 inches, and the greatest breadth 15 inches. The extreme length of the thigh bone was $17\frac{1}{8}$ inches. The skull appeared at first to be covered with hair, as some very fine and soft-looking roots had spread over it; a few of the teeth also remained, but they were very much worn down, as those of a very old person, used to masticating hard food.

"Several small shells—of two different kinds—one a flat helix, and the other a very small volute—were also found about the middle of the kistvaen, as if they had been laid for ornament on the breast; they were not, however, perforated. A small quantity of wood charcoal was also found, but not in so large a quantity as in the kistvaen No. 1. From the position in which this skeleton lay with regard to No. 1, it strikes me there may be a circle of graves, somewhat similar to that which I discovered beneath the Jonesborough monolith; but as the field has been since cropped with potatoes, I cannot have the necessary examination made at present.

"Christian cemeteries were not circular; and if these be Christian, then it would appear that No. 1 must have been an ecclesiastic, and therefore interred with the head to the east. The remains now described are those of a woman, and the interment is evidently of the same date as that of No. 1. The great height of the prominence over the eyes, or superciliary ridge struck all present. The skull and facial bones I have presented to Dr. Thurnham, and add his description of them, and his opinion relative to the probable date of the interment.

"If further search proves that the graves lie in a circular form, it will, I presume, modify Dr. Thurnham's opinion as to their antiquity: if not, the grave No. 1 must be considered of equal date with No. 2, viz., of the mediæval Christian period, and not, as was hitherto supposed, of the earliest Christian sepulture."

The following is Dr. Thurnham's communication above alluded to:—

"This female skull is of dolichocephalic type; the extreme breadth (about 5·2 inches) appearing to have been in proportion to the length (7·1 inches) as 73 to 100. The frontal bone is rather narrow; the occiput full and prominent; the nasals large and salient; the glabella and superciliary ridges full and projecting; the face short and broad; the lower jaw somewhat small, the chin prominent and narrow. Most of the teeth have been lost during life, the skull being that of a woman far advanced in age.

"I think the evidence of an archæological kind is in favour of the skull being of the mediæval period, and of the cemetery whence it was derived being that of the ecclesiastical buildings the remains of which it seems still exist. I incline to think that the kists you have discovered are not to be referred to the very early Christian period of Ireland, as the elaborate construction of the stone and wooden boxes—the latter with its spring fastening—are opposed to such a view. If other such boxes and pins of bronze are found, it may be possible, when their use can be more confidently inferred, to assign a date to the grave, at least an approximate one. I should not attribute much importance to the snail shells; but the charcoal may be the remains of the 'embers and incense,' *prunæ cum thure*, which it was the custom in mediæval times to deposit with the corpse, as appears from Durandus, the great ritualist of the middle ages, whose work, 'Rationale Divinorum Officiorum,' has of late been brought into notice by the Abbe Cochet ('Archæologia,' vol. xxxvi., p. 258; and 'Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries,' vol. iii., pp 47, 207)."

By Richard Long, Esq., M. D., Arthurstown, county of Wexford: Three *crania* of different races—the Greek, the Chinese, and the Ashantee.

The Secretary said it was very important that the Museum should possess a collection of *crania* of the different types of the human race for the purpose of comparison with those discovered in ancient interments in Ireland; and he hoped that this presentation would be followed by many similar donations.

By E. Smithwick, Esq., Kilcreene: a portion of the stone escutcheon of the Roth family, which had lain for many years in the lawn at Kilcreene. Mr. Prim supposed it to have formed a portion of the old castle that formerly stood on the site of the present house there, anciently the residence of the Roths. This piece of sculpture had been removed from Kilcreene, and was for a time lost; but having been recently discovered by the Rev. J. Graves at St. Francis'

Abbey, Mr. Smithwick now presented it, for the purpose of its preservation. When perfect, the escutcheon displayed several quarterings of arms, amongst which, besides the Roths', those of the families of Butler, Grace, and Knaresborough, were conspicuous, with the motto, SOLA SALUS SERVIRE DEO ; and beneath the inscription, in Roman letters :—THE . ATCHIEVEMENT . OF . RICHARD . ROTH . LATE . MAYOR . OF . KILKENNY . 1629. Richard Roth's mayoralty was in 1627–8. He was sheriff in 1614–15. His wife appears to have been a member of the Archer family, as at either side of the "achievement," on the Kilcreene stone, there were smaller shields ; that on the dexter side displaying the arms of Roth, with the initials R. R., and that on the sinister side the arms of Archer, with the initials I. A.

By Mr. J. Birch, Kilkenny : a token which had been struck in Dublin, about the beginning of the present century, for the purpose of being given in charity.

By Mr. Prim : an engraving of the plans and elevations of several of the locks and lock-keepers' houses of the old canal between Kilkenny and Innistioige. It appeared to have formed an illustration to a parliamentary report of the last century, on the progress of the works in connexion with the canal project.

By Arthur Gerald Geoghegan, Esq., Londonderry : a photograph of five characteristic ancient bronze fibulæ, and another of eight bronze spearheads ; also photographs of the front, back, and side views of a human skull ; and photographs of a portion of an ancient Irish harp, and of two ancient bells. All the photographs were executed by Mr. Ayton, of Londonderry. With regard to the skulls, harp, and bells, Mr. Geoghegan forwarded the following notices :—

"PHOTOGRAPHS OF ANCIENT CRANIA.—On the deepening of the Blackwater, by the Board of Works, in September, 1852, at a portion of the river close to the town of Blackwater, where the stream divides the counties of Tyrone and Armagh, the workmen employed dug up, at about four feet below the bed of the river, several ancient canoes, formed from the trunks of trees, and evidently hollowed out by the action of fire, and flint implements. The canoes were of various sizes, one of them measuring fully thirty feet in length. Their position when found suggested the conjecture that they had been used in an aquatic struggle at the spot. Along with the canoes some skulls were dug up, two of which, in a couple of days afterwards, came into the possession of William Kelly, Esq., Sub-Inspector of Constabulary, and with whom they still remain.

"On Mr. Kelly showing me his collection of Irish antiquities, which I may remark contains many interesting relics of the Stone and Bronze Ages, I was struck with the appearance of those aboriginal crania, and requested permission to have them photographed ; Mr. Kelly with the utmost courtesy consented, and I send you herewith the results.

"Availing myself of the ethnological instructions on the fly leaf of one of the numbers of the 'Journal' of our Society, I took the dimensions of

the skulls, being aided in doing so by Mr. Hamilton, assistant to Doctor Corbett, of this city, and annex the particulars, as follows :—

“SKULL No. 1.

	Inches.	Tenths.
Horizontal circumference, ...	21	—
Longitudinal diameter, ...	7	3
Frontal region—length, ...	5	1
“ “ breadth, ...	4	6
“ “ height, ...	4	—
Parietal region—length, ...	5	5
“ “ breadth, ...	5	—
“ “ height, ...	5	9
Occipital region—length, ...	5	—
“ “ breadth, ...	5	—
“ “ height, ...	3	5
Intermastoid arch, ...	14	3
Weight of the skull, empty, ...	19 oz. av.	
“ “ filled with fine white sand, 96	“	
Internal capacity of skull, ...	77 “	
Greatest length, ...	7	5
Greatest breadth, ...	7	—

“The internal capacity was ascertained by filling the skull with the finest dry white sand, which I brought from the sand hills at Dunfanaghy, on the north-western Donegal coast. The measurements are *all external*.

“SKULL No. 2.

	Inches.	Tenths.
Horizontal circumference, ...	20	—
Longitudinal diameter, ...	7	1
Frontal region—length, ...	4	9
“ “ breadth, ...	4	5
“ “ height, ...	3	—
Parietal region—length, ...	5	3
“ “ breadth, ...	4	5
“ “ height, ...	3	9
Occipital region—length, ...	4	5
“ “ breadth, ...	5	1
“ “ height, ...	3	5
Intermastoid arch, ...	12	5
Weight of the skull, empty, ...	15 oz. av.	
“ “ filled with white sand, . 79	“	
“ “ Internal capacity, . . 64	“	
Greatest height, ...	5	5
Greatest breadth, ...	5	5

“It will be remarked that there is a decided difference between the dimensions of the two crania, especially in the frontal regions ; can this be accounted for by the conjecture that No. 2 is the skull of a female ? The owner of No. 1 had apparently received a severe wound on the crown, where there is an incision of two inches in length in the bone, with sharp edges, as if made by the down blow of some weapon, probably a hatchet.

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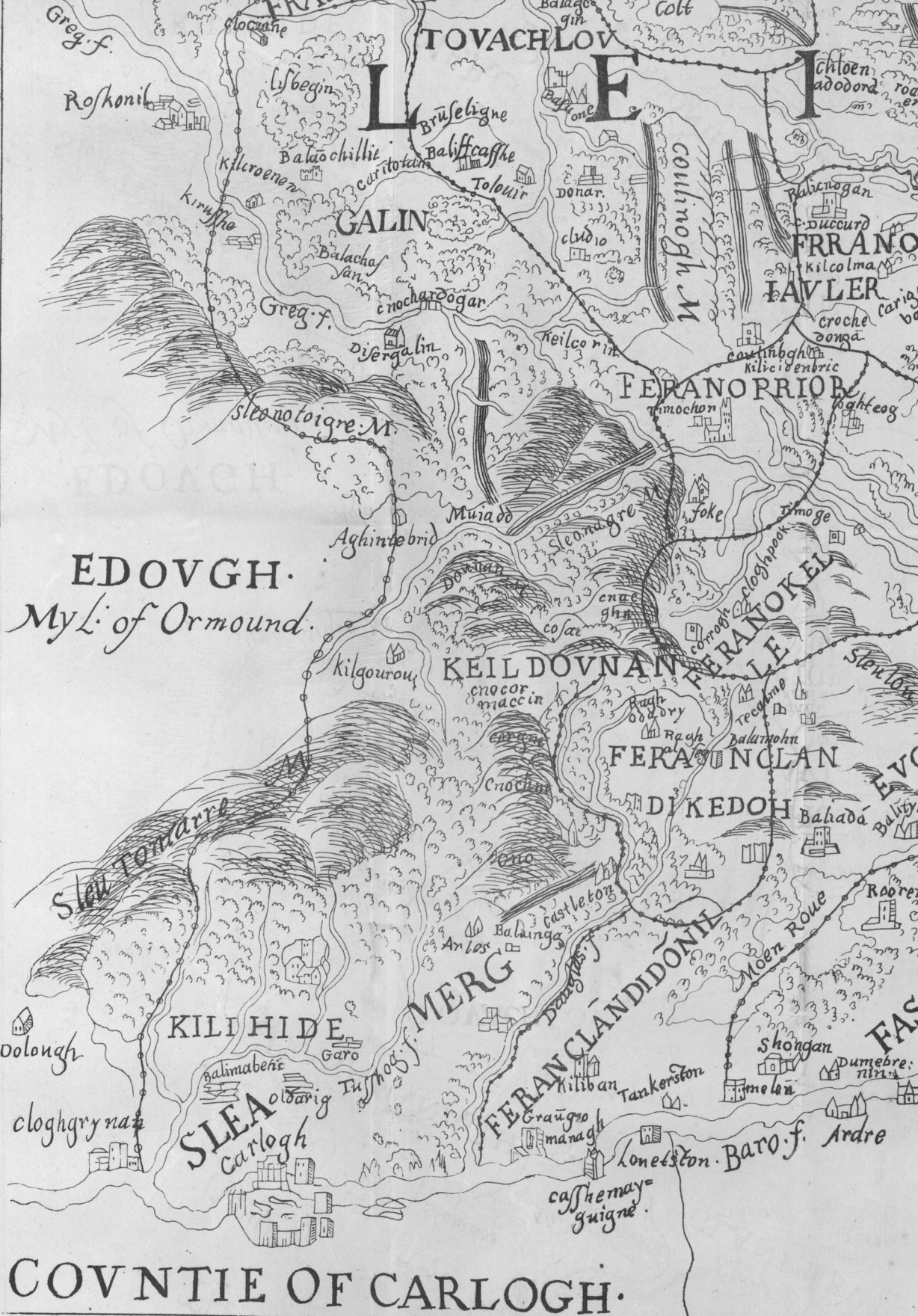
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The basilar process of No. 2 cranium is perfect, with the orifice for the spinal column in good preservation ; in No. 1 the process is entirely gone. The facial bones of both skulls are wanting, as will be observed from the photographs.

" ANCIENT IRISH ECCLESIASTICAL BELLS.—No. 1, cylindrical-shaped ; height five inches ; found on the top of a mountain, in the parish of Lower Budooney, county of Tyrone, in the year 1856. It was dug up by a peasant cutting turf, from about two feet below the surface. The party who found it stated that it had then a tongue or clapper, but this has been lost. The bell is now in the possession of Doctor Trinar, of Omagh.

" No. 2. This curious bell has been pronounced by the late John Corry, Esq., of Newry, a well-known antiquarian, a rare specimen. In a letter to Mr. Kelly, dated November 15, 1849, on the subject, he writes :—' The bell is genuine, and a rare specimen ; it belongs to a very early period, as no fewer than thirty-one of the same kind were found in a bog at Parsons-town, along with bronze spears, celts, gongs, &c., in a cauldron, some time ago. You are, perhaps, aware that it is the opinion of the best antiquarians that at the very earliest period they were used as cattle bells, and not for Druidical worship, as some visionaries imagine. You must, however, take care not to class your bell with the circular sheep bells, which were brought from England, and used to the close of the 17th century. I have some of this period with initials in modern English capitals.' The bell is now in the collection of William Kelly, Esq., of Londonderry.

" ANCIENT IRISH HARP.—Found at the bottom of a bog at Taughboyne, county of Donegal. The wood was lying beside, crumbled to dust. There is a tradition in the neighbourhood that a battle was fought in former times in the locality where the harp was found. The workmanship is of a superior description. As the bards joined in the onset of battle, it is not improbable that this is the iron framework of the *clairseach*. This interesting relic is now in my possession. The parish of Taughboyne (Teač baeitín) is referred to by Dr. O'Donovan, 'Book of Rights,' p. 131, n."

The following Papers were then submitted to the Meeting :—

NOTES ON A FAC SIMILE OF AN ANCIENT MAP OF LEIX,
OFALY, IRRY, CLANMALIER, IREGAN, AND SLIEVE-
MARGY, PRESERVED IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

BY HERBERT F. HORE, ESQ.

THE accompanying fac simile of an old map of the above named countries is accurately taken from the original in the Cottonian collection, in the British Museum, and has been collated with a copy in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, which latter map seems to be of later date, and has some local denominations more clearly and correctly written than on the former. From internal and other evidence, it appears that the Cottonian chart was